THE WORLD.

NUMBER XLIII.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *October* the 25th, 1753.

I HAVE devoted to-day's paper to the miſcellaneous productions of ſuch of my correſpondents as, in my own opinion, are either whimſical enough, or witty enough to be entertaining to my readers.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I am an ENGLISHMAN and a PATRIOT, but neither a FREEHOLDER nor an INDEPENDENT WHIG. I am neither a CRAFTSMAN nor a FOOL, but a FREETHINKER and a PLAIN-DEALER; a ſteady CHAMPION for virtue, and a ſharp PROTESTER againſt vice.

I AM a daily INSPECTOR of my neighbour's actions, and take a MONTHLY REVIEW of my own; yet do not aſſume the title of CENSOR or GUARDIAN; being contented with the office of MONITOR, or REMEMBRANCER. My enemies nevertheleſs will call me a TATLER, a BUSY-BODY, an IMPERTINENT, &c.

I AM a great READER and a LOVER of polite literature. I am ſometimes an ADVENTURER abroad, ſometimes a RAMBLER at home, and rove like the BEE from MUSÆUM to MUSÆUM in queſt of knowledge and pleaſure.

I AM an OCCASIONAL WRITER too; in a fit of gaiety I am a HUMOURIST, in a fit of ſerioufneſs a MORALIST; and when I am very angry indeed, I SCOURGE the age with all the ſpirit of a BUSBY.

To conclude, I am not an idle SPECTATOR, but a cloſe EXAMINER of what paſſes in the WORLD, and Mr. Fitz-Adam's

Admirer and humble ſervant,

PHILOCOSMOS.

THIS letter puts me in mind of the following advertiſement in a late Daily Advertiſer. "Whereas Thomas "Turvey, ſnuff-man, who is lately removed from the "blackamoor's head in Piccadilly to the ſhop, late the "crown and dagger, three doors lower, and hopes for the "continuance of his friend's cuſtom"—And there it ends. I ſhould have been more obliged to my correſpondent, if after his WHEREAS that he was an ENGLISHMAN, a PATRIOT, a FREEHOLDER, &c. he had thought proper to inform me to what purpoſe he was all this. But I have the pleaſure of hoping that his epiſtle is only an introductory diſcourſe to a larger work; and as ſuch I have given it to the public without addition or amendment.

SIR,

SIR,

IF it would not be medling with religion (a ſubject which you have declared againſt touching upon) I wiſh you would recommend it to all rectors, vicars and curates of pariſhes to omit in the prayer, commonly uſed in the pulpit before ſermon, the petition for JEWS, TURKS and INFIDELS. For as the JEWS, ſince a late act of parliament, are juſtly deteſted by the whole nation; and as it is ſhrewdly ſuſpected that a bill is now in agitation for naturalizing the TURKS, wiſe men are of opinion that it is no buſineſs of ours to be continually recommending ſuch people in our prayers. Indeed, as for the INFIDELS, who are only our own people, I ſhould make no ſcruple of praying for them, if I did not know that perſons of faſhion do not care to hear themſelves named ſo very particularly in the face of a congregation. I have the honour of an acquaintance with a lady of very fine underſtanding, who aſſures me that the above-mentioned prayer is abſolutely as terrible to her as being churched in public: for that ſhe never hears the word INFIDEL mentioned from the pulpit, without fancying herſelf the ſtare of the whole rabble of believers.

As it is certainly the duty of a clergyman to avoid giving offence to his pariſhioners; and as our hatred to the JEWS, our alarms about the TURKS, and the modeſty of perſons of quality, are not to be overcome, I beg that you will not only inſert this letter in the WORLD, but that you will alſo give it as your opinion that the petition ſhould be omitted.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

J. M.

MR.

MR. FITZ-ADAM,

Now the theatres are open, and the town is in high expectation of ſeeing PANTOMIMES performed to the greateſt advantage, it would not be improper if you were to give us a paper upon that ſubject. Your predeceſſor the Spectator, and the Tatler before him uſed frequently to animadvert upon theatrical entertainments; but as thoſe gentlemen happened to have no talents for PANTOMIME, and were partial to ſuch entertainments as themſelves were able to produce, they treated the nobler compoſitions with unwarrantable freedom. Happy is it for us, that we live in an age of TASTE, when the dumb eloquence, and manual wit and humour of HARLEQUIN is juſtly preferred to the whining of tragedy, or the vulgarity of comedy. But it grieves me, in an entertainment ſo near perfection, to obſerve certain indelicacies and indecorums, which, though they never fail of obtaining the approbation of the galleries, muſt be extremely offenſive to the politeneſs of the boxes. The indelicacies I mean, are, the frequent and ſignificant wriglings of HARLEQUIN's tail, and the affront that PIEROT is apt to put upon the modeſty of COLUMBINE, by ſometimes ſuppoſing, in his ſearches for her lover, that ſhe has hid him under her petticoats. That ſuch a ſuppoſition would be allowable in comedy, I am very ready to own; the celebrated Mrs. Behn having given us in reality what is here only ſuppoſed. In a play of that delicate lady's, the wife to conceal her gallant from her huſband, not only hides him under her petticoats, but, as Trulla did by Hudibraſs, ſtraddles over him, and holding her huſband in diſcourſe, walks backwards with her lover to the door, where with a gentle love-kick ſhe diſmiſſes him from his hiding place.

But

But that the chaſte COLUMBINE ſhould be ſuſpected of ſuch indelicacy, or that PIEROT ſhould be ſo audacious as to attempt the examination of premiſes ſo ſacred, is a ſoliciſm in PANTOMIME. Another impurity that gives me almoſt equal offence, is, HARLEQUIN's tapping the neck or boſom of his miſtreſs, and then kiſſing his fingers. I am apprehenſive that this behaviour is a little bordering upon wantonneſs; which in the character of HARLEQUIN, who is a foreigner, and a fine gentleman, and every thing agreeable, is as abſurd, as it is immodeſt.

WHEN theſe reformations can be brought about, everybody muſt allow that a PANTOMIME will be a moſt rational and inſtructive entertainment: and it is to be hoped that none but principal performers will be ſuffered to have a part in it. How pleaſed would the town be this winter to read in one of the articles of news in the Public Advertiſer, "We hear that at each of the theatres "royal there is an entire new PANTOMIME now actu- "ally in rehearſal, and that the principal parts are to "be performed by Mr. Garrick, Mr. Woodward, Mr. "Moſſop, Mrs. Cibber and Mrs. Pritchard at Drury- "Lane; and at Covent-Garden by Mr. Quin, Mr. Lun, "Mr. Barry, Miſs Noſſiter, &c. It is not to be doubted that a PANTOMIME ſo acted would run through the whole ſeaſon to the politeſt as well as moſt crowded audiences. Indeed, I have often wondered at the good-humour of the town, that they can bear to ſee night after night ſo elegant an entertainment, with only one performer in it of real reputation.

IT was very well obſerved by a perſon of quality, "That if Mr. Addiſon, Doctor Swift and Mr. Pope "were alive, and were unitedly to write a PANTOMIME

"every